

THE SPARK GAP

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE

VOLUME 19 No. 8

MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

AUGUST 2002

FLAT ROCK RUN

Crisp summer mornings in Flat Rock don't get much nicer. Eighteen hams, 2 pounds of sausage and lots of pancakes to start the day. As the bright morning sun rose over southern Shelby county cornfields MARC communicators were taking their positions around the 5-mile Flat Rock marathon course. According to Race Director Pat Trefun nearly three dozen runners and a dozen walkers would make the circuit to benefit the Flat Rock volunteer fire department. The hams benefited with a great breakfast courtesy of the Flat Rock fire department.

Thanks to our radio operators we were able to keep an accurate head count as the runners put their feet to the pavement for five long miles. Special thanks go to Joe Rogers-KF9LQ for his outstanding efforts as Race Net Control. According to Trefun, "this was the best start and race ever. I couldn't do it without the help of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club."

Bob LeGrange-N9SIU and Bob Doles-WB9AYB repeated the official radio countdown at the starting line to give all runners an accurate start. Newcomer Eric Benson from New Castle started the official clock as race communications director Jack Parker-W8ISH called the final race-starting countdown.

The first runner finished in just over 30 minutes. Hershel Saylor-WD9GMM followed the medics to provide communications in case a runner when down. It may have seemed like overkill at some locations, but Pat Trefun says every amateur radio operator was needed to provide a high level of runner safety. Trefun say previous marathons this year have seen several runners overcome by heat. All our runners and walkers made it without incident.

James Smith-K9APR took the lead in the Sheriff's golf cart while providing voice communications and digital APRS beacons. Finish line officials were able to track the golf cart and lead runners around the course.

It's refreshing to see such a good turnout for Johnson county events. Thanks to everyone who made the long trip to Shelby county. It was another outstanding moment for Amateur Radio public service. -W8ISH

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NOMINATIONS FOR CLUB OFFICERS 2002-2003

This Saturday August 17th, the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club will be taking nominations for club offices for the year 2002 – 2003. The nominations committee will be presenting their slate of officer candidates and nominations will also be taken from the floor. Those seeking nomination for a club office must be a member of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club and in good standing. If nominating someone please make sure that the person you nominate is willing to serve as a club office.

The election of club officers: president, vice-president, treasurer and repeater trustee will take place at the September meeting. Please plan on attending this important club meeting.

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Editor – Bob LaGrange, N9SIU
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MARC CLUB OFFICERS

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Please welcome Carol Osborne KC9CFK, to our club repeater. Carol has been working on her license for sometime and just received her ticket. She is the wife of J.R. Osborne KB9HSE and they reside in Whiteland. Carol seems to enjoy her new found hobby and finds that it does come in handy when J.R. is out and about.

..... Bob N9SIU

INDIANA COMBINED DRIVING EVENT

Once again our club has been asked to help with safety for this event at the Hoosier Horse Park located at the Johnson County Park. This annual event is for horses, their owners and people interested in fine horsemanship. Amateurs are still needed for this event to provide safety spotters at various points in the course. The event takes place on Sunday, September 1st. Amateurs wanting to help should be there at 7:30 P.M. Joe Rogers KF9LQ is heading up the volunteers to help with this event. Those helping will be receiving a "tee shirt" commemorating the event.

Contact Joe KF9LQ at the Club meeting Saturday morning or on the RACES net 7:00 P.M. Sunday evening.

The sponsors of the combined driving event have been pleased with our help over the years and look forward to us helping this year. This is also another good opportunity for the public to see our club members and amateur radio in action.

Greenwood Marching Band Invitational

This coming September MARC will again help with parking and safety at the Greenwood High School for this annual event. The band parent organization has always appreciated our help and professionalism with this large event. As usual there will be a break room with lots of good things to eat and drink. So make plans now to help with this event. It will be the fourth Saturday, September 28th in the afternoon.

We need a good number of amateurs to help with this event at least 15 to 20. Bring an amateur friend with you to help out. A sign up sheet will be passed out at the club meeting in August. Contact Bob N9SIU if you can help.

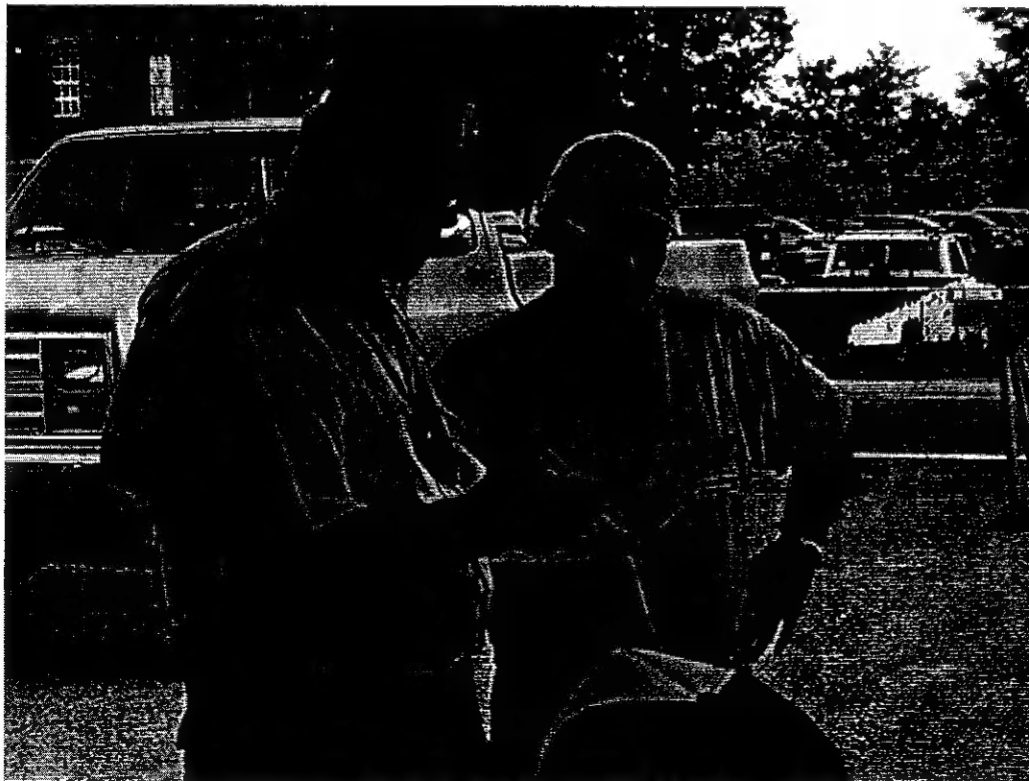
Pictures from the Flat Rock Run August 10th :



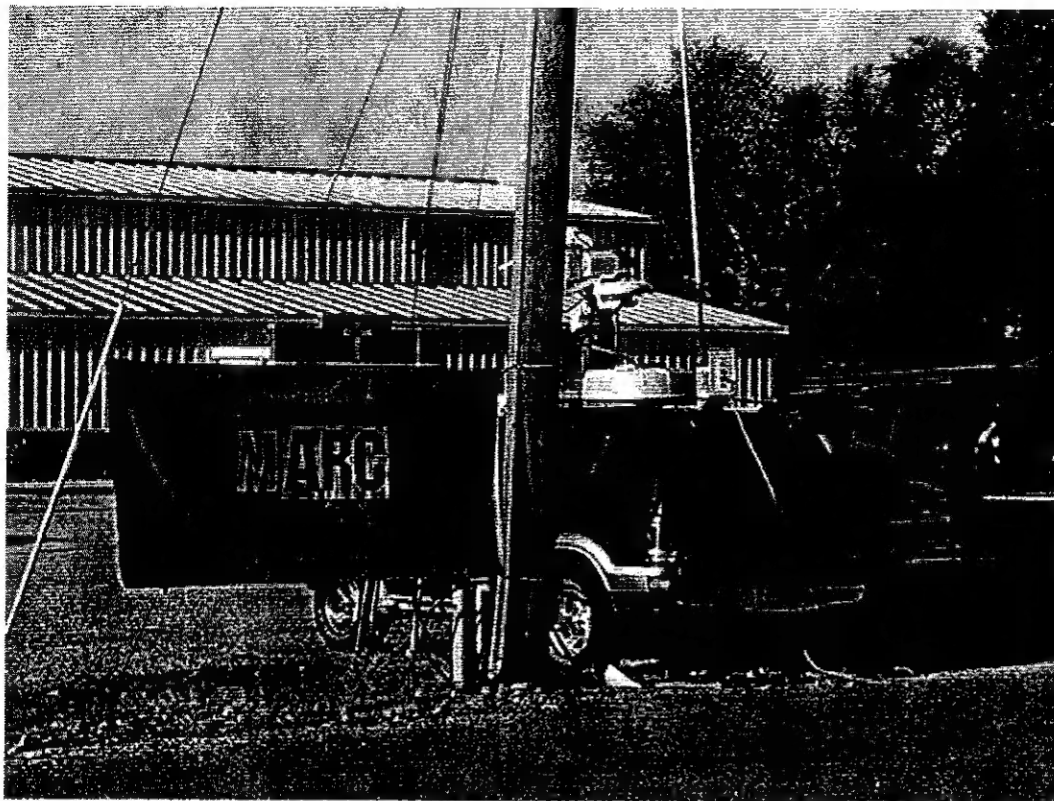
Jack W8ISH makes sure all points on the course are covered.



After a good breakfast, we discuss details of the race.



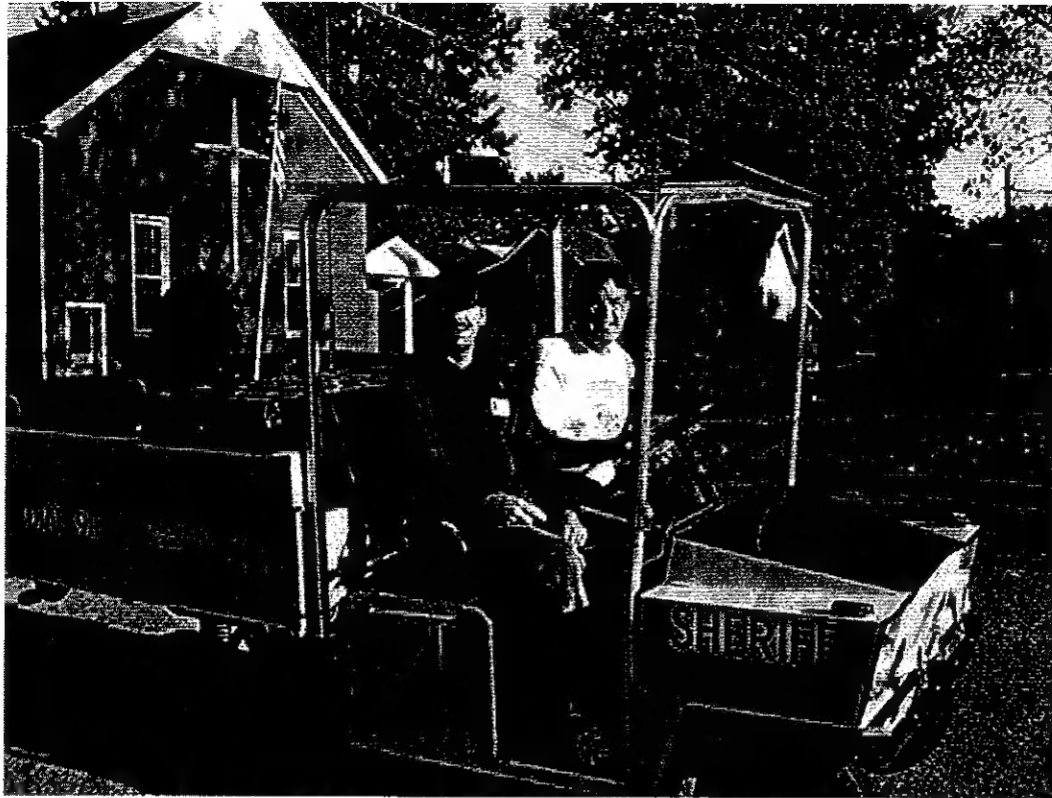
Jack W8ISH goes over what Jerry W9JJS is to do.



With our banner flying, we are ready!



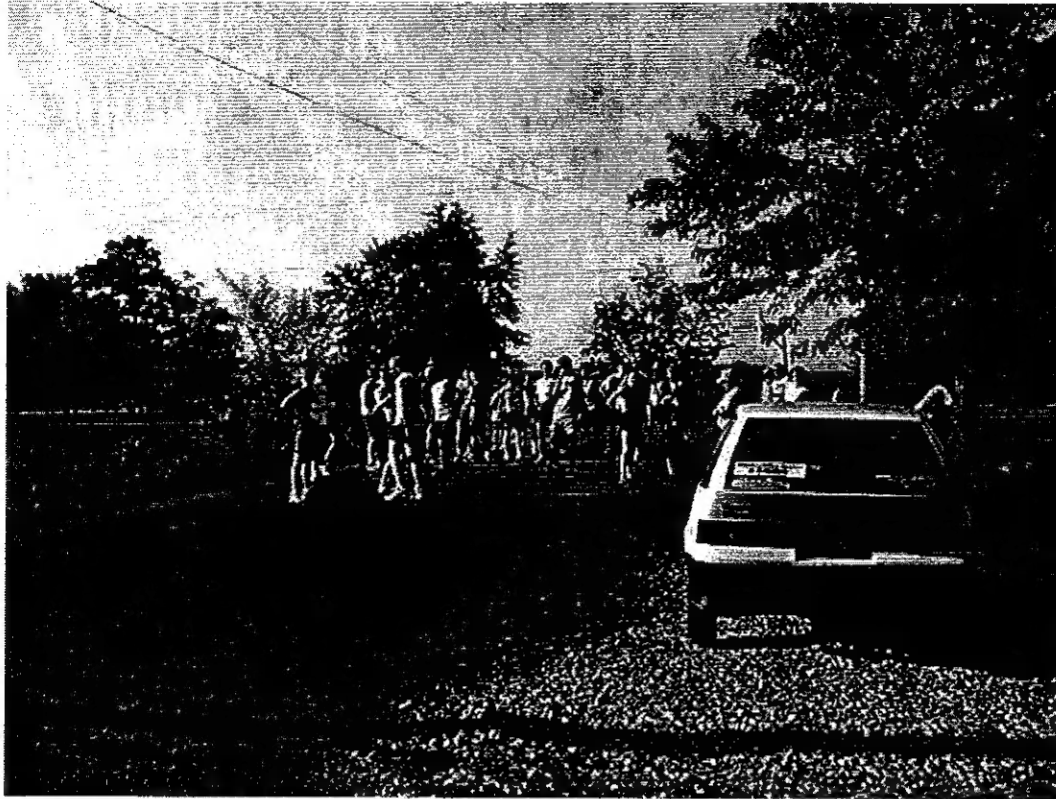
Jack W8ISH has just fired up the APRS.



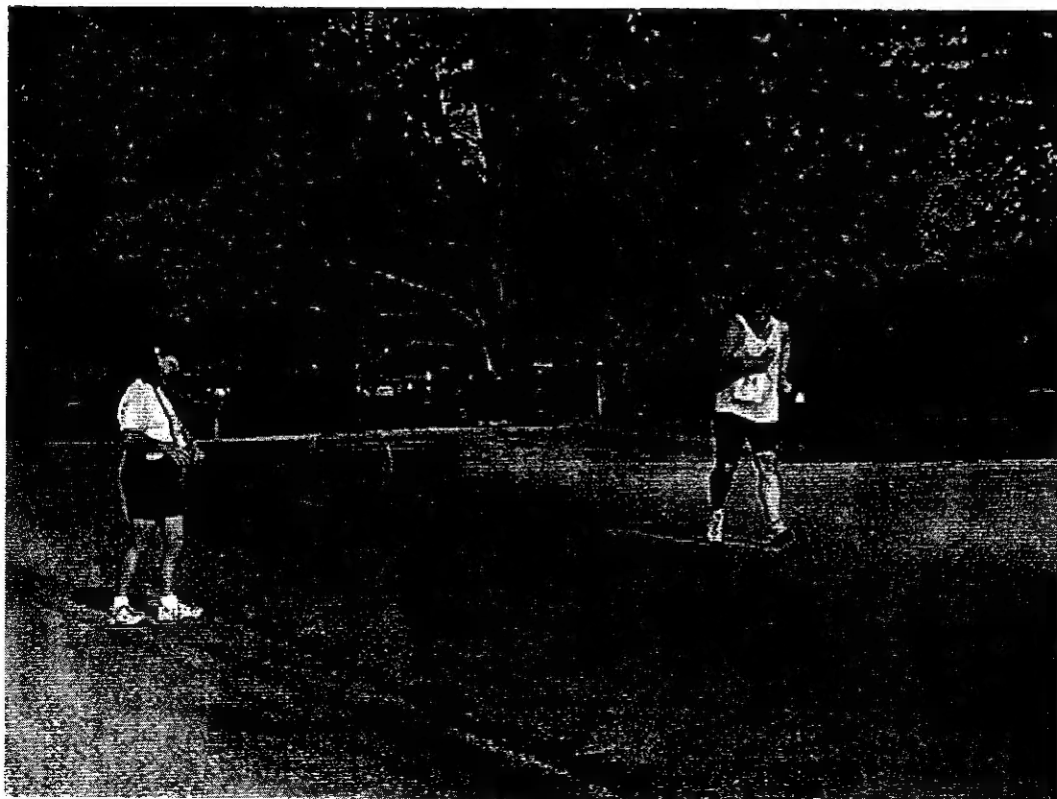
James K9APR rides with the lead and mans the APRS station.



Joe KF9LQ is net control and Barb KB9NOG is there to assist.



The runners wait for the race to begin.



The first walker arrives at the finish line.

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The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the third Saturday of each month at the Johnson County Law Enforcement Center, Emergency Operations Center training room. MARC maintains the 146.835 – MHz (pl 151.4) repeater. Membership includes phone patch privileges. Dues are \$ 18.00 per year and are due January 1st of each year. New members may join at a pro-rated dues rate after the January 1st of each year.

JOHNSON CO. RACES sponsors a weekly communication net on the 146.835 repeater each Sunday evening at 7:00 PM EST. All amateurs are welcome to check-in, club membership or RACES membership is not required.

Club dues and/or membership applications should be mailed to:

Vernon Gill, N9QBO
MARC Treasurer
P.O. Box 836
Franklin, Indiana 46131

If you have any information or an article that you would like to see in the Spark Gap please send it to Bob LaGrange, N9SIU at n9siu@arrl.net . I would like to have all entries for the September issue no later than September 9th.

..... 73, N9SIU
